

## Coalition Update: 27 December 2011-2 January 2012

### Conservative Identity and Issues

**61% of Tory members think early General Election would produce a majority for Cameron** (*ConservativeHome*, 27 December)

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thetorydiary/2011/12/61-of-tory-members-think-early-general-election-would-produce-a-majority-for-cameron.html>

**Tim Montgomerie: An appetite for conservatism that the PM doesn't always satisfy** (*Independent*, 28 December)

Cameron's position has strengthened after he has acted in recognisably conservative ways

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/tim-montgomerie-an-appetite-for-conservatism-that-the-pm-doesnt-always-satisfy-6282184.html>

**Before we build Cameron's big society, we'll need to know what it is** (*Guardian*, 31 December 2011)

Cameron's close adviser Steve Hilton, deputy chief of staff Kate Fall, director of strategy Andrew Cooper, and his head of communications Craig Oliver, have now been asked to draw up a creative strategy for the second half of this parliament which raises the Conservative agenda beyond merely the economics of deficit reduction.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/dec/31/big-society-david-cameron-royal-society-of-arts-uk>

**Order, order! Why the newest Tories are a major headache for Cameron** (*Independent*, 30 December)

Phil Cowley and Mark Stuart speak! "Over time the ranks of the rebellious new MPs will swell, unless the Government can create a raft of new jobs to keep its backbenchers occupied. We find it difficult to imagine the rate of rebellion remaining quite so high over the entire Parliament – the Whips will certainly hope not – but in parliamentary terms the Government needs to brace itself."

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/order-order-why-the-newest-tories-are-a-major-headache-for-cameron-6282999.html>

### The Lib Dems

**Britain's poorest hit by £2.5bn 'stealth tax'** (*Independent*, 27 December)

The Government's flagship policy of raising income-tax thresholds has been trumpeted by the Liberal Democrats as their main achievement since the Coalition was formed last year – and a major boost for the low-paid. But tax cuts for low and middle-income families in April will be dwarfed by hidden reductions in tax credits

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/britains-poorest-hit-by-25bn-stealth-tax-6281832.html>

**Recovery in Clegg's ratings amongst party members confirmed but not back to 2010 levels** (*Lib Dem Voice*, 27 December)

<http://www.libdemvoice.org/recovery-in-cleggs-ratings-amongst-party-members-confirmed-but-not-back-to-2010-levels-26297.html>

**Lib Dem president accused of 'slagging off the coalition'** (*Independent*, 1 January 2012)

“Officially, Mr Farron's pithy putdowns about the Conservatives are part of his party's "differentiation strategy". But to Baroness Warsi it is "bad taste and mean". The war of words from the senior figures who voice the concerns of their parties' rank and file comes as Mr Cameron and Mr Clegg try to present a more united front after weeks of public division over Britain's relationship with Europe.”

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/lib-dem-president-accused-of-slagging-off-the-coalition-6283807.html>

## **Labour**

**How Labour can avoid the Tory trap** (*Guardian*, 28 December)

Miliband's party should focus on growth and improving living standards for the majority, and not get caught up in the cuts

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/dec/28/labour-avoid-tory-trap-growth?INTCMP=SRCH>

**Labour turns on BBC over 'pro-coalition coverage'** (*Guardian*, 31 December)

“party officials have monitored invitations, and time given, to senior Tory and Liberal Democrat figures on the BBC's main news outlets against that allotted to Labour counterparts. Their analysis has shown that Labour has been represented less than half as often as the coalition. While acknowledging that the Tories and Lib Dems are in government and should therefore take precedence, they believe the imbalance has left Labour struggling to get its messages across.”

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/dec/31/ed-miliband-labour-bbc-bias>

**Labour is trailing the Tories, and here are the reasons why** (*Telegraph*, 1 January 2012)

“Voters do not trust the party on the central issue of the moment: the economy. And to say the electorate has not taken to the party's young leader is an understatement.”

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/ed-miliband/8986533/Labour-is-trailing-the-Tories-and-here-are-the-reasons-why.html>

## **Miscellaneous**

**Let's be honest. How did the leaders do in 2011?** (*Times*, 27 December) ££

Mehdi Hasan, Tim Montgomerie and Mark Pack evaluation the leaders of the three main parties. Verdict: Cameron triumphant; Miliband and Clegg struggling

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article3269035.ece>

**Divorce isn't an option for David Cameron and Nick Clegg** (*Telegraph*, 29 December)

To take the radical step of giving Clegg's party a majority stake in some departments would be risky. But by signalling who lives where in the household, it would perhaps create conditions for a truce. Far more important, it could allow Conservatives to consolidate their grip on the economic departments – and unleash pro-growth measures that have been blocked.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/david-cameron/8983003/Divorce-isnt-an-option-for-David-Cameron-and-Nick-Clegg.html>

**Clegg clashes with PM over fears of top Mandarin's 'bias' in Cameron's favour** (*Mail*, 1 January 2012)

“The Liberal Democrat leader demanded assurances from Jeremy Heywood, who takes over as Cabinet Secretary this week, that he will not give special treatment to Mr Cameron.”

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2080824/Clegg-clashes-PM-fears-Mandarins-bias-Camerons-favour.html>